

**CITY OF COLUMBUS**  
**2010 BUDGET HEARING**  
September 15, 2009

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas, met September 15, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall for the purpose of the 2010 Budget Hearing. Mayor Marie Nepple presided. Council members present: Jerri Burton, Doug Hosier, John Paradee, Dewey Smith, Gary Smith, Grant Spieth, Dana Wellmeier. Members absent: Connie Bennett, Steve Dunlap, David Morrison.

Councilmember Doug Hosier led the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Marie Nepple opened the meeting at 6:30 pm by reading:

The governing body of Columbus, Kansas will meet on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2009, at 6:30 pm at the Columbus City Hall Council Chambers for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax.

Mayor Nepple then opened up the hearing for public comment. There where none. Mayor Nepple then asked if the council had any comments. Mayor Nepple then turned the meeting over to Councilmember Grant Spieth, Chairman of the Budget Committee.

Grant said over all ad valorem tax from last year that was budgeted this year was \$931,849. This year in the 2010 budget we are budgeting \$879,243, which is about \$50,000 less. That's a first in a long time. Usually the valuation goes up and even if you keep it the same the money you take in is more so you have to do an ordinance. That is by State Statutes. But as long as you spend less than you did last year then you do not have to do an ordinance to authorize that money. However, I think the evaluation has gone down and even though our mill levy is right close, it is 5 mills less than last year. Our calculated rate for 2009 is 49.812 which is off the budget we are doing right now and is on page 19. Page 19 was the one published in the paper. That is what the hearing is about tonight. As you can see if you go to the total budget for 2010 you can see the proposed expenditure in the amount of ad valorem tax that is going to support that. The rest of the money comes from fees and taxes. Councilmember Gary Smith asked Grant if that was just an estimate being the 50.941. Grant said it is an estimate at this point but that is where we go with our budget. It can change just like it did last year because it has gone down. As you can see the biggest drop was probably in Employee Benefits. Last year we asked for about \$338,000 and this year we are asking for \$220,538. City Administrator Evan Capron said that was due to workers comp going down and it could even go down even more next year and the next. Grant said he assumes that is why our actual tax rate went down as we didn't spend that much money. Overall continued Grant we are asking for a 50.941. That is only in the General Fund. The budget is really only for the General Fund and not any of the other special funds. The Reserve Funds are money already spent or is a savings for things in the future. Other than that is there any

questions. Grant then turned it back over to Mayor Nepple who called for a motion to approve the 2010 budget as published in the paper.

**ACCEPT 2010 BUDGET**

Spieth moved to approve the 2010 City of Columbus budget at 50.941 mills as published in the paper. Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Burton, Hosier, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth Wellmeier. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 7-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Burton moved to adjourn the budget hearing meeting at 6:39 pm. Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Burton, Hosier, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth, Wellmeier. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 7-0.

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*Janice Blancett, City Clerk*